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December 16th.

MR. LEA, Vice President, in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From Prof. J. P. Kirtland, dated Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 24th, 1856, transmitting a specimen of Bohemian Waxwing, (*Bombycilla garrula*), from that neighborhood.

From the Dublin University Zoological and Botanical Association, dated Trinity College, Dublin, Nov. 28th, stating that their printed Transactions had been transmitted to the Academy, and desiring exchanges. Referred to the Publication Committee.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings:—

“Classification of the Vegetable Kingdom. By T. G. Hilgard, M. D.,” referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Durand, Dr. Uhler and Dr. Rand.

“Notice of remains of extinct Turtles from New Jersey, &c. By Joseph Leidy, M. D.,” referred to a Committee consisting of Dr. Le Conte, Mr. A. H. Smith and Mr. Ashmead.

Mr. Cassin read a letter from Mr. P. B. Du Chaillu, dated Corrisco, Gaboon, Oct. 15th, 1856, transmitting a large and valuable collection of objects in Natural History, and giving an interesting account of his explorations. On motion of Dr. Le Conte, Mr. Cassin was requested to prepare an abstract of the letter for publication in the Proceedings.

Mr. Lea mentioned that, in describing a new species of *Triquetra*, Klein. (*Ilyria*, Lam.) in April last, (Proceedings, vol. viii. p. 79,) he had but a single valve, which had the appearance (as stated in his remarks not yet published) of being twisted like *Arca tortuosa*, Lin. This extraordinary form, which had never been suspected to exist in any member of the family *Naiades*, excited great interest with the zoologists who saw it; but it was still a matter of doubt whether the curve, although exceedingly regular and presenting no appearance of constraint or injury, might not be abnormal. This doubt has now, however, been put entirely at rest, for the curve of both specimens is so precisely the same, that when the odd right valve is placed against the left of the other, they fit perfectly, proving that the curve is a mathematical law belonging to the species. He exhibited to the Society a complete adult specimen, which H. Cuming, Esq., of London, sent him for inspection and to be figured. The species was recognized by Mr. Cuming on his visit here recently at once to be the same as that in his cabinet, and he promptly and liberally offered to place this unique specimen in Mr. Lea's hands for a more perfect description and figure than could be given of the single immature valve he already had. Mr. Cuming's specimen is quite six inches along the dorsal line to the angle of the posterior margin, and this line deflects quite two inches in the course of the six inches from a straight line, and it is so twisted that the basal margin at the posterior end turns up to be on a plane with the dorsal line at the beaks. This remarkable curve causes the long lateral teeth to have a curve of double curvature. The greatest distance from the dorsal to the basal margin is one inch and three-tenths. The greatest diameter is nine-tenths of an inch, which gives it a sub-cylindrical form, and it is not unlike a twisted banana, (*Musa sapientum*). This perfect specimen presents the superior portion of the valves covered with small, regular tubercles, which was not suspected in the original single valve, there being on it only a few irregular undulate markings. Mr. Cuming's specimen settles the doubt as to habitat. He received his from Shanghai, and therefore Mr. Fitch and Dr. Ingalls, to whom I

owe the possession of the single valve, were right in assigning it to China. Doubts arose from the fact that, heretofore, *Triquetra* has been considered to be confined to South America. Mr. Lea stated that he proposed the name should be changed from that he originally proposed, (*T. lanceolata*, as inappropriate to the complete mature shell,) to that of *contorta*, which is very descriptive, and can never be mistaken.

December 23d.

DR. BRIDGES, Vice President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, dated Adelphi, London, Nov. 22d, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy:—

“Note on the collection of Reptiles from Texas, recently presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by Dr. A. Heermann. By Edward Hallowell, M. D.” “Description of a new genus of Colubriiform Serpents from California. By Edward Hallowell, M. D. ;” both referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Haldeman, Dr. Le Conte and Dr. Morris.

“Notices of extinct Vertebrata discovered by Dr. F. V. Hayden, &c. By Joseph Leidy, M. D. ;” referred to a Committee consisting of Dr. Le Conte, Mr. Haldeman and Dr. Wilson.

“Catalogue of Birds collected at Cape Lopez, Western Africa, by Mr. P. B. Du Chaillu, in 1856, with notes and descriptions of new species. By John Cassin ;” referred to Drs. Woodhouse, Wilson and Bridges.

“Description of three new genera, twenty-three new species of Tertiary fossils from California, and one species from Texas. By T. A. Conrad ;” referred to Dr. Wilson, Dr. Leidy and Mr. A. H. Smith.

Dr. Morris mentioned an instance of a tumor taken from the abdomen of a cat, which, upon examination, proved to be true medullary cancer.

December 30th.

DR. BRIDGES, Vice President, in the Chair.

The Committees to which were referred Drs. Leidy's and Hilgard's papers, read 16th inst. ; and Drs. Hallowell's and Leidy's, and Messrs. Cassin's and Conrad's papers, read 23d inst., severally reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Remarks on certain extinct species of Fishes.

By JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D.

Remarks on Edestus vorax, Journ. A. N. S. iil. 159.—Since describing the fossil, supposed to be the fragment of an upper jaw of a fish, to which the name of *Edestus vorax* was given, it has occurred to me that it may perhaps be the portion of a dorsal spine of a huge cartilaginous fish. In the published Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, (Providence,